

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 FREETO 00826 110900Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

/059 W

-----069863 120833Z /15

R 101452Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7285

C O N F I D E N T I A L FREETOWN 0826

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, SL

SUBJ: CHARLES MARGAI AND DOMINIC NGOMBU RELEASED FROM DETENTION

REF: (A) FREETOWN 0455, (B) FREETOWN 0315, (C) FREETOWN 0408

1. OPPOSITION SLPP NEWSPAPER "THE PEOPLE" ANNOUNCED MARCH
9 THAT FORMER SLPP PARLIAMENTARIANS CHARLES MARGAI AND DOMINIC

NGOMBU WERE RE-
LEASED FROM DETENTION MARCH 6. MARGAI IS SON
OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER ALBERT MARGAI AND FORMER MP FROM
MOYAMBA SOUTH II. NOGOMBU IS FORMER MP FROM KAILAHUN NORTH.
TOGETHER WITH A THIRD SLPP MR. DAUDA SANDI, THEY WERE UNSEATED
FOR MISSING THIRTY DAYS OF PARLIMENTARY SESSIONS WHILE IN
DETENTION (77 FREETOWN 4195.

2. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: INDEPENDENT SOURCES CONFIRM THAT
RELEASE ORDER WAS SIGNED BY PRESIDENT, BUT NOTE THAT MARGAI
IS STILL IN JAIL FACING CHARGES OF CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT ARSON
(REFTEL A). ACCORDING TO SOURCES EFFECT OF RELEASE FROM
DETENTION FOR MARGAI WILL BE TO PERMIT HIM TO SEEK BAIL WHILE
STILL FACING CHARGES. TRIAL IS EXPECTED TO DRAG ON INDEFINITELY
AND SERVE AS RESTRAINT ON FUTURE POLITICAL ACTIVITY BY MARGAI.
WE UNDERSTAND THAT NGOMBU HAS RETURNED TO KAILAHUN. DAUDA
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SANDI REMAINS IN DETENTION.

3. EMBASSY COMMENT: POST WOULD LIKE TO BELIEVE THAT DIS-
CUSSIONS UNDERTAKEN WITH ATTORNEY-GENERAL MINAH (REFTEL B)
AND FOREIGN MINISTER CONTEH (REFTEL C) CONTRIBUTED TO DECISION
TO RELEASE OF TWO MEN FROM DETENTION. WHATEVER THE CAUSE,
THEIR RELEASE MEETS AN IMPORTANT BENCHMARK IN ACHIEVING THE

EMBASSY'S OBJECTIVE OF SEEKING TO EASE THE USE OF DETENTIONS
UNDER THE PUBLIC EMERGENCY ACT AS DISCUSSED IN THE PROPOSED
HUMAN RIGHTS ACTION PLAN FOR SIERRA LEONE FREETOWN 0228).
END EMBASSY COMMENT. END CONFIDENTIAL.
LINEHAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTION, PRISONERS RELEASE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: FREETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780384/aaaacstv.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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TAGS: SHUM, PINT, SL, (MARGAI, CHARLES), (NGOMBU, DOMINIC)
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Review Markings:
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